

AGENDA



Thursday, February 14, 2008

**Management Services
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 12**

Subject: Approve an ordinance amending Title 2 of the City Code relating to City boards, adopting the City's standard bylaws for boards, and providing for emergency passage.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is not required.

In April 2007, the City Council passed a resolution describing the board and commission system as vital to the form of government in Austin. Because of the size and importance of this system, Council declared it imperative that resources be expended in the most effective and prudent ways possible. The City Manager was directed to review the system and make recommendations for improvements based on a Board and Commission Task Force report completed in 2003. This Task Force was appointed in 2001 and directed to survey board members to assess issues and areas of concern.

Staff conducted a briefing to Council on staff's recommendations on October 11, 2007. At that meeting, staff highlighted their next steps in this process. Staff went to the Ethics Review Commission on October 22, 2007 and made a presentation regarding two specific recommendations: financial reporting requirements and conflict of interest forms. A full public hearing occurred at the November 8, 2007 Council meeting to receive public comment regarding the proposed changes. City Council approved the ordinance amending the City Code to repeal and replace Chapter 2-1 relating to Boards and Commissions on November 29, 2007.

The amendments address various concerns and changes brought by different boards, changes to make a board comply with State or other mandated standards, clarification of reference points of the Code and amending the standard bylaws.